

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 AF-04 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 SP-02 L-01 PRS-01 EB-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DODE-00

H-01 NEAE-00 /045 W

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P R 181155Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2753

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USINT BAGHDAD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KHARTOUM 3055

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, PFOR

SUBJECT: INITIATIVES RE ARAB BOYCOTT

REF: STATE 254030

1. TIMELY REFTEL PROVIDED BASIS FOR USEFUL DISCUSSION BOYCOTT ISSUES OCT 16 WITH MINSTATE FONAFFS DENG. I BEGAN BY STATING THAT WE UNDERSTOOD ARAB LEAGUE BOYCOTT CONFERENCE WOULD OPEN IN BAGHDAD OCT 18. WITH THIS MEETING IN MIND, DEPT WISHED ARAB GOVERNMENT BE AWARE MOUNTING CONCERN AMERICAN PEOPLE ON BOYCOTT ISSUES.

2. NOTING I SPEAKING ON INSTRUCTIONS, I THEN SUMMARIZED POINTS REFTEL, STRESSING THE CONSTRUCTIVE OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR RECENT BOYCOTT DISCLOSURE INITIATIVE. WHILE ONLY 1/10TH OF ONE PERCENT OF RECENT BOYCOTT REQUESTS CONTAINED ELEMENTS WHICH COULD BE CONSTRUED AS DISCRIMINATORY ON RELIGIOUS GROUNDS,
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AMERICAN PEOPLE FOUND ANY DISCRIMINATION MORALLY REPREHENSIBLE.

ARAB GOVERNMENTS MIGHT WELL FIND IT IN THEIR INTEREST PUBLICLY TO EXPLAIN NON-DISCRIMINATORY NATURE OF BOYCOTT, WHILE ELIMINATING ALL INSTANCES OF DISCRIMINATION. AMBASSADOR THEN DREW ON PARTICULAR CASES MENTIONED STATE 254029 TO ILLUSTRATE OUR CONCERN. SHOULD NEXT FEW MONTHS REVEAL NO FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENTS IN PICTURE, IT APPEARS THAT NEW AND MORE STRINGENT ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION COULD WELL BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE CONGRESS NEXT SESSION.

3. DENG REPLIED THAT SUDAN DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE IN ITS BOYCOTT PRACTICES (FY: THIS IS CORRECT. END FYI). HE UNDERSTOOD THAT EFFORTS TO ENFORCE BOYCOTT THROUGH SECONDARY AND TERTIARY PROCEDURES WERE OBNOXIOUS TO AMERICAN PEOPLE. AT SAME TIME, HE DID NOT BELIEVE ARABS COULD BE EXPECTED TO ABANDON ANY EFFECTIVE MEANS FOR PUTTING PRESSURE ON STATE WITH WHICH THEY REMAIN AT WAR. DENG URGED THAT MORE BE DONE BY USG TO ENLIGHTEN AMERICAN OPINION ON THE ISSUES INVOLVED. I REPLIED THAT AMERICAN PEOPLE WOULD NOW BE FULLY ENLIGHTENED AS RESULT OF BOYCOTT DISCLOSURE POLICY. AS TO EFFECTIVENESS ARAB BOYCOTT MEASURES, I COMMENTED PERSONALLY THAT I HAD ALWAYS BELIEVED BOYCOTT FAR LESS EFFECTIVE THAN ARABS THOUGHT. IN FACT, IF ANTI-DISCRIMINATORY ELEMENTS REPRESENTED ONLY SMALL PORTION OF BOYCOTT REQUESTS, ARAB STATES MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER WHETHER CONTINUANCE SUCH OBJECTIONABLE PRACTICES WAS WORTH THE CANDLE, IN TERMS OF LIKELY SERIOUS ADVERSE IMPACT ON AMERICAN PEOPLE AND HENCE ON USG/ARAB RELATIONS. DENG CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO EXAMINE EACH BOYCOTT ISSUE ON MERITS, BUT ADMITTED THAT MORE REMOTE SECONDARY BOYCOTT STEPS WOULD PROBABLY BE FOUND IN MOST CASES NOT IN ARAB INTEREST.

4. COMMENT. WHILE SUDANESE BOYCOTT PRACTICES ARE IN GENERAL LAX AND LIMITED TO PRIMARY BOYCOTT MEASURES, GOS UNLIKELY SEEK USE ITS LIMITED INFLUENCE WITH OTHER ARAB STATES TO MODIFY OBJECTIONABLE ARAB PROCEDURES. WE UNDERSTAND GOS HAS NOT SENT REPRESENTATIVE TO BAGHDAD BOYCOTT CONFERENCE BUT WILL BE REPRESENTED BY SUDANESE EMBASSY IN BAGHDAD. WE ASSUME SUDANESE REP WILL GO ALONG WITH GENERAL ARAB CONSENSUS BUT, SHOULD HE REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS, DENG IS NOW FULLY AWARE USG ATTITUDE AND OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED BY OUR NEW BOYCOTT DISCLOSURE INITIATIVE.

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TM DEPT REPEAT OTHER POSTS AS DESIRED. BREWER

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Message Attributes

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